

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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## **PUBLIC MEETING TO REVIEW DRAFT PLANS FOR FOREST & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS IN CENTRAL BERKSHIRES**

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will conduct a public meeting on Thursday, September 29, 2005 to present information on the draft Forest Management Plan for the Central Berkshire Forest Management District that consists of approximately 31,000 acres.

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) will also present its draft plan for the DFW Berkshire Highlands Forest Management Zone during the meeting. Both plans will be presented at this meeting from 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 PM at the DCR Western Regional Headquarters Office, 740 South St. off Route 7 in Pittsfield, MA.

At that time, information will be presented on the purpose of the forest management plan; land management zoning; resource conditions and the desired condition; and, performance standards to meet the desired condition. The draft plans were developed in consideration of the DCR and DFW legal mandates, green certification sustainability conditions, as well as public input from previous meetings on the management of the state forests and park.

This meeting is also designed to answer the public's questions and hear initial thoughts on the draft plans. The public is invited to submit formal written comments **by mail to:** Kris Massini, DCR Bureau of Forestry, PO Box 1433, Pittsfield, MA 01202 or by e-mail: [kris.massini@state.ma.us](mailto:kris.massini@state.ma.us).

"Massachusetts State Forest and Parks need modern, systematic forest management planning," said DCR Commissioner Steven Burrington. "State law requires management planning on all forestland owned by state agencies and departments, and these DCR system lands are also green-certified as sustainable managed forests. Maintaining this certification requires development of forest management plans that will not only explore and catalog our resources but direct their wise and sustainable use over time and to that end we welcome the public's comments and participation."

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*Governor*

KERRY HEALEY  
*Lt. Governor*

STEPHEN R. PRITCHARD  
*Secretary, EOE*



DCR and DFW facilities included in the Central Berkshire area are: Bryant Mountain State Forest, Gilbert A. Bliss State Forest, Chesterfield State Forest, Dead Branch State Forest, Becket State Forest, Chester-Blanford State Forest, C.M. Gardner State Park, Peru State Forest, Middlefield State Forest, Ashmere Lake State Park, Worthington State Forest, October Mountain State Forest, Pittsfield State Forest, Laurel Lake Boat Ramp, the Appalachian Trail Corridor, Wahconah Falls State Park and Becket, Catamount, Chalet, Cummington, Day Mountain, Eugene Moran, Farmington River, Fiske Meadows, Fox Den, Hinsdale Flats, Hiram Fox, John J. Kelly, Leyden, Lily Pond, Otis, Peru, Poland Brook, Powell Brook, Satan's Kingdom, Savoy, Stafford Hill, Tekoa Mountain, Walnut Hill, Westfield, Whately, and Williamsburg Wildlife Management Areas.

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